

THE MURDER OF JAMES BULGER



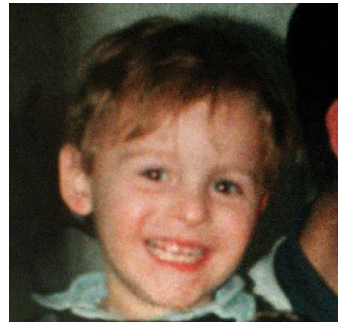
THE CASE OF JAMES BULGER

In Liverpool, 1993, James Bulger at age two, was murdered by Robert Thompson and Jon Venables. Both Robert and Jon were 10 years old at the time. They had abducted James from a shopping mall in Bootle. James had been kicked, beaten, and stoned. His body was found two days later in Walton, Liverpool. He was on a railroad track where they had laid him for his body to be ran over by a train, which was what happened. The two boys were found guilty on November 24, 1993. This made them the youngest convicted murderers in history.

They were sentenced to be incarcerated until they reached 18 years of age. They were released under new identities and on a lifelong licence in June 2001

- "James Bulger Killing: The Case History of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson." *The Guardian*. 7 Apr. 2014. Web. 17 Sept. 2015.

- *Jon Venables and Robert Thompson INTERVIEWS*. Dir. Ryan Watson. 2013. Film.



FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

ROBERT'S FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCE:

Robert was the fifth of seven children. His mother, Ann Thomas had been left by her husband five years before the killing of James Bulger. Their house had burned down in an accidental fire not long after his father left. His mother became an alcoholic and was always at the bar instead of looking after her seven children.

JON'S FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCE:

Jon's parents had separated, but Jon spent time with both parents. Jon's mother was very strict. Jon's brother and sister both had learning difficulties and were going to separate special schools. Jon was always hyperactive and always causing trouble at school.

ARRESTS OF ROBERT AND JON

- Taken into custody on Thursday, February 18, 1993
- Separate interviews take place with Robert and Jon
- Both boys were found to have the same blue paint of their clothing as was found on Bulger's body
- Blood on Robert's shoe matched the blood of James through DNA tests
- Charged with the abduction and murder of James bulger on Saturday, February 20, 1993



TRIAL AND SENTENCING

- Robert and Jon both plead not guilty on February 22, 1993 at South Sefton Magistrates' Court in Bootle
- The trial was largely based on the 20 hours of voice recorded police interviews with boys
- Pathologist stated brain damage was very extensive and included hemorrhage
- The jury heard 3 weeks of evidence and at the end of the trial it took them 6 hours to reach a verdict
- Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, age 11 at the time, were found guilty on November 24, 1993 and sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's for Pleasure for a minimum of eight years
- Became the youngest convicted murderers of the 20th century

Source: <http://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/crime-files/james-bulger>

CURRENT SITUATIONS: ROBERT THOMPSON

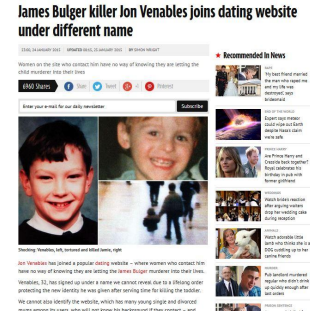
- Redbank
- Special treatment
- Relationship.
- Shopping & Allowance.
- Release.



Source:

- "Venables and Thompson - An Update on Little Bulger's Killers." *Killers Without Conscience*. 27 Apr. 2013. Web. 17 Sept. 2015.

CURRENT SITUATIONS: JON VENABLES



- Released.
- Life going well.
- Not so well.
- Jail again.
- Internet dating.

- Sources:
 - BBC Documentary titled “Jon Venables - What Went Wrong”
 - <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/james-bulger-killer-jon-venables-5038127>